

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

June 13, 1981

POLAND: Continued Political Pressure

The Soviets are continuing to apply heavy political pressure on the Polish leadership, but we have not yet seen any Soviet military preparations for an intervention. [REDACTED]

Prime Minister Jaruzelski again shuffled the Polish Government yesterday and pledged that the government would resist attacks against its authority but cooperate further with Solidarity. Union leader Walesa is asking Solidarity members to avoid political issues, thus seeking indirectly to support the regime's leaders. [REDACTED]

Less than 24 hours after party leader Kania's pledge to take action in response to Soviet criticism, TASS reported that despite the resolution of the Polish party, anti-Soviet publications continue to circulate in Poland. TASS also published, without comment, portions of the resolution passed by the Polish plenum. The clear message is that the Soviets will not tolerate the Polish leaders' temporizing, even for a day, in implementing their latest commitments. [REDACTED]

Jaruzelski's Speech to Parliament

Warning that Poland was "again on the brink of catastrophe," Jaruzelski--like Kania earlier this week--took a balanced approach to dealing with the crisis. He asserted that the government would stop or severely punish anti-Soviet acts, adding that "madmen who might set fire to our joint national homes" would not be tolerated. [REDACTED]

With the latest cabinet reshuffle, at least 18 ministers and 40 deputy ministers have been fired since September. Planning Commission Chief Kisiel appears to be retiring for legitimate health reasons, but the reason for replacing Minister of Justice Bafia is less certain. His ministry has not acquitted itself well in the controversy over the beating of Solidarity activists in March, an incident that has been a source of almost constant tension. On the other hand, Bafia could have come under criticism because four dissidents were recently released from pretrial detention. His replacement is the party's expert on constitutional law. [REDACTED]

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238A

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On the economic front, Jaruzelski said that industrial production has fallen over 12 percent in the first five months of 1981, compared to the same period last year, and that market supplies have dropped over 6 percent. In addition, the regime may not have enough goods to satisfy rationing commitments. Prospects for improvement later this year are poor; as a result, plan targets will have to be revised downward at the next meeting of the parliament on 25 June. [REDACTED]

Walesa's Peace Offensive

The Solidarity leader has begun a tour of factories to convince union activists that domestic peace is necessary both for Poland and for the union. He is urging members to concentrate on trade union matters and to avoid political issues. [REDACTED]

Walesa believes that the union needs to consolidate the gains it has made and improve its organizational structure before its congress in late August. He is also aware that labor unrest in the next several months would give party hardliners and Moscow additional arguments for a crackdown. (C)

Whether Walesa will succeed depends on his ability to control union militants in the face of possible provocations by hardliners. Walesa is, for example, committed to protecting dissidents; should they be arrested, he would come under great pressure to support strikes. [REDACTED]

Military Situation

There have been no signs of the callup of reservists or other preparations for military intervention. Soviet forces are engaged in training activity and preparations for harvest support, which are normal for this time of year. [REDACTED]